

ACCESS SERVICE

9. Directory Assistance Service

The Telephone Company will provide Directory Assistance (DA) Service to a customer from Directory Assistance Service locations (DA locations). DA locations are either primary or subtending. Primary DA locations are those to which terminating DA calls for the NPA first complete. Primary DA locations either process the telephone number request or, if necessary, forward the call to a subtending DA location for processing. DA service rates are assessed by the primary DA location only. Subtending DA locations are compensated by contractual arrangements between Telephone Companies.

9.1 General Description

Telephone Company provided DA Service is available to customers for their use in furnishing DA services to end users. It provides for the use of Directory Access Service between the premises of the ordering customer and the DA location(s), use of DA access equipment, and use of DA operators to provide telephone numbers.

Directory Access Service will be provided between the customer designated premises and the DA location by the Telephone Company. Rates and charges for Directory Assistance Service are set forth in 17.2.4 following.

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9. Directory Assistance Service (Cont'd)9.1 General Description (Cont'd)9.1.1 Description and Provision of Directory Assistance Service

A Telephone Company DA operator, when furnished a name and locality, will provide or attempt to provide the telephone number listed in the Telephone Company DA records associated with the name given, at the rates and charges as set forth in 17.2.5 following. The Telephone Company's contact with the customer's end user shall be limited to that effort necessary to process a customer's end user's request for a telephone number; and the Telephone Company will not transfer, forward or redial a customer's end user call to any other location for any purpose other than the provision of DA Service.

Each Directory Access Service will consist of the following:

- An Interface Group equipped with an available Premises Interface as set forth in 15.3.1 following at the customer's designated premises.
- Directory Transport between the premises of the ordering customer and the DA location.

When required by the Telephone Company, a separate Directory Access Service trunk group will be provided for DA Service for each NPA. Separate trunk groups will be required when the Telephone Company notifies the customer that the mechanized search of its data base and its mechanized operator practices require a mechanized identification of the NPA code for which the customer's end user desires DA information.

Further, when an access tandem is available and is requested, the Directory Access Service will be provided,
at customer choice:

- as a separate Directory Access Service trunk group, or
- in combination with Feature Group B, C or D Switched Access Service.

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9. Directory Assistance Service (Cont'd)9.1 General Description (Cont'd)9.1.2 Ordering Options and Conditions(A) Ordering

Except as set forth following, Directory Assistance Service provided under a Special Order is subject to the ordering conditions as set forth in Section 5. preceding. The customer shall determine and order the busy hour minutes of capacity and interface type of Directory Access Services it needs for DA Service.

When DA Service is initially ordered, the customer shall order the service for at least six months. Thereafter, additional service may be ordered for a minimum of six months. Not later than three months prior to the end of the six month period, the customer shall notify the Telephone Company if the service is to be discontinued at the end of the six month period. If no notice is received from the customer, the Telephone Company will automatically extend the service for another six months and all appropriate charges as set forth in 17.2.5 following will apply for another six months.

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9. Directory Assistance Service (Cont'd)9.1 General Description (Cont'd)9.1.2 Ordering Options and Conditions (Cont'd)(B) Cancellation of a Special Order

A customer may cancel a Special Order for DA Service on any date prior to the service date. The cancellation date is the date the Telephone Company receives written or verbal notice from the customer that the Special Order is to be cancelled. The verbal notice must be followed by written confirmation within 10 days.

When a customer cancels a Special Order for DA Service after the order date but prior to the start of service, the appropriate application of charges as set forth in Section 5. preceding apply for the Directory Access Service cancelled. In addition, a charge equal to any unrecoverable capital costs incurred by the Telephone Company will apply to the customer.

(C) Changes to Special Orders

When a customer requests changes to a pending order for DA Service, such changes will be undertaken if they can be accommodated by the Telephone Company. The appropriate application of charges as set forth in Section 5. preceding apply for the Directory Access Service changed. In addition, a charge equal to any other costs incurred by the Telephone Company because of the change will apply.

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9. Directory Assistance Service (Cont'd)9.1 General Description (Cont'd)9.1.3 Rate Categories

There are two rate categories which apply to Directory Assistance Service:

- Directory Assistance Service Call
- Directory Transport Service

(A) Directory Assistance Service Call

The Directory Assistance Service Call rate category provides for the use of general DA Services such as operators and DA access equipment necessary to provide DA Service to a customer.

(B) Directory Transport Service

Directory Transport Service provides the transmission facilities and transport termination between the premises of the ordering customer and the DA location. For purposes of determining Directory Transport Mileage, distance will be measured from the wire center that normally serves the customer premises to the DA location(s).

Directory Transport is a two-way voice frequency transmission path composed of Switched Access Local Transport facilities as set forth in 6.1.3 preceding. The two-way voice frequency path transports calls in the terminating direction (from the premises of the ordering customer to the DA location). The following rate elements, which are more fully described in 6.1.3(A) preceding, are applicable.

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9. Directory Assistance Service (Cont'd)9.1 General Description (Cont'd)9.1.3 Rate Categories (Cont'd)(B) Directory Transport Service (Cont'd)

- Entrance Facility for the transport of the DA call from the customer's premises to the serving wire center of that premises.
- Direct Trunked Transport (i.e., Direct Trunked Facility and Direct Trunked Termination) for the transport of the DA call from the customer's serving wire center to the DA location without switching at a tandem or from the serving wire center to the tandem.
- Tandem Switched Transport (i.e., Tandem Switched Facility, Tandem Switched Termination, and Tandem Switching) for the transport of the DA call from the tandem to the DA location.
- Transport Interconnection Charge for the Local Transport costs that are not recovered by the Entrance Facility, Direct Trunked Transport, Tandem Switched Transport, Multiplexing, or dedicated signaling (i.e., SS7) rates.
- Multiplexing DS3 to DS1 Multiplexing charges apply when a High Capacity DS3 Entrance Facility or Direct Trunked Facility is connected with High Capacity DS1 Direct Trunked Transport. The DS3 to DS1 multiplexer will convert a 44.736 Mbps channel to 28 DS1 channels using digital time division multiplexing.

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9. Directory Assistance Service (Cont'd)9.1 General Description (Cont'd)9.1.3 Rate Categories (Cont'd)(B) Directory Transport Service (Cont'd)

DS1 to Voice Grade Multiplexing charges apply when a High Capacity DS1 Entrance Facility or Direct Trunked Facility is connected with Voice Grade Direct Trunked Transport. A DS1 to Voice Grade Multiplexing charge does not apply when a High Capacity DS1 Direct Trunked Facility is terminated at an electronic end office and only Switched Access Service is provided over the DS1 facility (i.e., Voice Grade Special Access channels are not derived). The DS1 to voice multiplexer will convert a 1.544 Mbps channel to 24 Voice Grade channels.

Multiplexing is only available at wire centers identified in NATIONAL EXCHANGE CARRIER ASSOCIATION, INC., TARIFF F.C.C. NO. 4, WIRE CENTER INFORMATION.

The customer will specify whether the Directory Access Service is to be routed directly to a DA location or through an access tandem switch appropriately equipped for DA measurement and served by DA trunks to the DA location when such an access tandem switch is available. The combination of Feature Group B, C or D Switched Access Service with DA Service will only be provided at such available and appropriately equipped access tandem switches.

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9. Directory Assistance Service (Cont'd)9.1 General Description (Cont'd)9.1.3 Rate Categories (Cont'd)(B) Directory Transport Service (Cont'd)

When Directory Transport is provided using a Direct Trunked Transport to the DA location, no address signaling is provided. When Directory Transport is provided with the use of an access tandem switch, wink start-start pulsing signaling is provided at the access tandem switch. When access tandem routing is provided, the customer shall address each call to the DA location using NPA + 555 + 1212 or when required by the Telephone Company, 555-1212. Only NPA codes handled by the DA location served by the access tandem switch will be processed.

Directory Transport is provided with one of the Local Transport Interface Groups as set forth in 15.1.1 following.

9.1.4 Special Facilities Routing

A customer may request that Directory Access Service be provided via Special Facilities Routing. The regulations, rates and charges for Special Facility Routing (Avoidance, Diversity and Cable Only) are as set forth in Section 11. following.

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9. Directory Assistance Service (Cont'd)9.1 General Description (Cont'd)9.1.5 Design Layout Report

The Telephone Company will provide to the customer the makeup of the facilities and services provided under this section as Directory Access Service. This information will be provided in the form of a Design Layout Report similar to that set forth in 6.1.5 preceding. Design Layout Reports for Directory Access Service will be provided only when specifically requested by the customer. The Design Layout Report will be provided to the customer at no charge, and will be reissued or updated whenever the facilities provided for the customer's use are materially changed.

9.2 Undertaking of the Telephone Company9.2.1 Number of Telephone Number Requests

A maximum of two (2) requests for telephone numbers will be accepted per call to Directory Assistance and DA operators will not transfer, forward or redial the call to another location for any purpose other than the provision of DA Service.

9.2.2 Telephone Number Availability

A telephone number which is not listed in DA records will not be available to the customer's end user.

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9. Directory Assistance Service (Cont'd)9.2 Undertaking of the Telephone Company (Cont'd)9.2.3 Selection of DA Locations

The Telephone Company will specify the DA location which provides the DA Service for each numbering plan area code (NPA). The DA locations are as shown in NATIONAL EXCHANGE CARRIER ASSOCIATION, INC., TARIFF F.C.C. NO. 4.

When it becomes necessary to change a DA location, as determined by the Telephone Company, the Telephone Company will notify the involved customers six months prior to the change. For such changes, the regulations as set forth in 2.1.7 preceding apply.

9.2.4 Transmission Specifications

Each Directory Assistance Service transmission path is provided with standard transmission specifications, either Type A or B, as set forth respectively in 15.1.2(E) and (F) following. The specifications associated with the parameters are guaranteed to the DA location. The standard for a particular transmission path is dependent upon the following:

- Whether Directory Access Service is provided in combination with Feature Group B, C or D Switched Access Service, or
- When not provided in combination with Switched Access Service, whether routed direct or via an access tandem switch.

The available transmission specifications are set forth in 15.3.2 following.

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9. Directory Assistance Service (Cont'd)9.2 Undertaking of the Telephone Company (Cont'd)9.2.5 Testing(A) Acceptance Testing

The acceptance testing capabilities for Directory Access Service traffic routed through an access tandem are the same as those for the associated Feature Group C or D end office switching. The acceptance testing for Directory Access Service traffic routed directly, or routed in separate trunk groups through an access tandem, to the DA location, will be the same as that for Switched Access Service as set forth in 6.2.4 preceding.

(B) Routine Testing

Routine testing capabilities for Directory Access Service traffic routed through an access tandem are the same as those for the associated Feature Group C or D end office switching. Routine testing capabilities for Directory Access Service traffic routed directly, or routed in a separate trunk group through an access tandem, to the DA location, will be as set forth in 13.3.1(A)(3) following (Additional Manual Testing).

9.2.6 Determination of Number of Transmission Paths

The number of Directory Transport transmission paths provided is based on the customer's order and is determined by the Telephone Company in a manner similar to Switched Access Service transmission paths as set forth in 6.2.5 preceding.

9.2.7 Supervisory Signaling

Trunk side switching is provided at the DA Service access location. The DA Service access location will provide trunk answer and disconnect supervisory signaling.

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9. Directory Assistance Service (Cont'd)9.3 Obligations of the Customer

In addition to the obligations of the customer as set forth in Section 2. preceding, the customer has certain specific obligations concerning the use of Directory Assistance Service. These obligations are as follows:

9.3.1 Jurisdictional Reports

Directory Transport may, at the option of the customer, be provided for both interstate and intrastate communications. When the customer requests such mixed access, the interstate Directory Transport charges will be determined by the Telephone Company using the data furnished by the customer as set forth in 2.3.11 preceding.

9.3.2 Supervisory Signaling

The customer facilities at the premises of the ordering customer shall provide the necessary on-hook and off-hook supervision.

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9. Directory Assistance Service (Cont'd)9.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)9.3.3 Ordering of Separate Trunk Groups

When requested by the Telephone Company, the customer shall order a separate trunk group for DA Service for each NPA. The conditions when the customer will be requested to order separate trunk groups for each NPA are set forth in 9.1.1 preceding.

9.3.4 Notice of Discontinuance of Service

DA Service is ordered and renewed for a minimum period of six months at a time, as set forth in 9.1.2(A) preceding. Not later than three months prior to the end of any six month period, the customer shall notify the Telephone Company if the service is to be discontinued at the end of that period.

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9. Directory Assistance Service (Cont'd)9.4 Rate Regulations

This section contains the specific regulations governing rates and charges that apply for Directory Assistance Service.

9.4.1 Nonrecurring Charges

Nonrecurring charges for DA Service are one-time charges that apply for a specific work activity (i.e., installation, change to an existing service and DA Service rearrangements).

(A) Installation of Service

Nonrecurring Local Transport Installation and Direct Trunked Transport Activation charges as set forth in 17.2.1(A) and (E) following are applied as set forth in 6.4.1(B)(1) preceding to each Directory Access Service installed.

(B) DA Service Rearrangements

All changes to existing services other than changes involving administrative activities will be treated as a discontinuance of the existing service and an installation of a new service.

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9. Directory Assistance Service (Cont'd)9.4 Rate Regulations (Cont'd)9.4.2 Directory Assistance Service Call Charge

The Directory Assistance service call charge, as set forth in 17.2.5(A) following, applies for each call to DA Service. A call is a call which has been answered by a DA operator. The charge applies whether or not the DA operator provides the requested telephone number. The number of calls answered by DA operators will be accumulated by Telephone Company measuring equipment. A credit for the provision of an incorrect telephone number will be applied as set forth in 9.4.8 following.

9.4.3 Directory Transport Service

The premium Local Transport charges set forth in 17.2 following are also applicable to Directory Transport Service and will be assessed on the same basis as the Switched Access Local Transport rate elements set forth in 6.1.3(A) preceding:

- Entrance Facility
- Direct Trunked Transport
- Tandem Switched Transport
- Multiplexing
- Transport Interconnection Charge

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9. Directory Assistance Service (Cont'd)9.4 Rate Regulations (Cont'd)9.4.4 Minimum Periods

The minimum period for which DA Service and the Directory Access Service is provided and for which charges apply is six months. A minimum period of six months applies for each additional period of service ordered or extended.

If DA Service is discontinued prior to the end of each six month period, the charges that apply for the remaining months are the non-recoverable costs. Such costs include the non-recoverable cost of equipment and material ordered, provided or used, plus the non-recoverable cost of installation and removal including the costs of engineering, labor supervision, transportation, rights-of-way and other associated costs less estimated net salvage.

The minimum period for which High Capacity DS3 Entrance Facilities or High Capacity DS3 Direct Trunked Transport is provided is twelve months.

9.4.5 Minimum Monthly Charge

DA service is subject to a minimum monthly charge. The minimum monthly charge is calculated as follows:

The minimum monthly charge for Directory Assistance Service calls is the charge as set forth in 17.2.5(A) following for the actual usage for the month.

For Directory Transport rate element, the minimum monthly charge the customer will be assessed will be the usage charges based on actual usage. For flat rated Directory Transport rate elements, the minimum monthly charge is the sum of the recurring charges prorated to the number of days or major fraction of days based on a 30 day month. Rates for Directory Transport are set forth in 17.2.2 following.

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9. Directory Assistance Service (Cont'd)9.4 Rate Regulations (Cont'd)9.4.6 DA Service Rearrangements

Nonrecurring charges apply for service rearrangements. Service rearrangements and the regulations concerning the application of associated nonrecurring charges are as set forth in 6.4.1(B)(3) preceding.

9.4.7 Moves

A move involves a change in the physical location of the point of termination at the customer designated premises or of the customer designated premises. Moves will be treated as set forth in 6.4.4 preceding and all associated nonrecurring charges will apply. Minimum period requirements will be established at the new location as set forth in 6.4.4 preceding. The customer will also remain responsible for satisfying all outstanding minimum period charges for the discontinued service.

9.4.8 Credit Allowance for Service Outages and Incorrect Numbers

- (A) When the DA location or DA operator equipment or terminals are out of service due to a Telephone Company equipment failure a credit allowance is provided. When an incorrect number is provided and a customer DA call has been answered by a DA operator, a credit allowance is provided. The credit allowance provided is equal to the rate for a Directory Assistance Service Call as set forth in 17.2.5(A) following. The credit will be applied to the customer's charges.

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9. Directory Assistance Service (Cont'd)9.4 Rate Regulations (Cont'd)9.4.8 Credit Allowance for Service Outages and Incorrect Numbers (Cont'd)

- (B) In addition to the credit as set forth in (A) preceding, when a DA operator or DA equipment provides an incorrect number for a call and the customer reports such occurrences to the Telephone Company, a credit allowance for the Switched Access portion of the call in the originating LATA of such DA call will apply. The credit will be as set forth in (C) following. When the customer reports such a call and the number requested, the number provided and the reason the number provided is incorrect, the number of calls for which a credit will apply will be developed by the Telephone Company in cooperation with the customer.
- (C) When a DA call is not completed due to the failure of Directory Access Service to DA locations, DA access equipment or DA operator activities, a credit allowance for the Switched Access Service portion in the originating LATA of such DA call will apply. When the customer reports such a call and DA number dialed, time of the call and the date of the call, the number of calls for which a credit will apply will be developed by the Telephone Company in cooperation with the customer. The credit will be as set forth in 17.2.5(C) following. Credit allowances for other service interruptions will be provided as set forth in 2.4.4 preceding.